

TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BELFAST DISTRICT

Hospital for the Insane Poor

OF THE

COUNTIES OF ANTRIM AND DOWN, AND THE COUNTY
OF THE TOWN OF CARRICKFERGUS,

FROM 1ST APRIL, 1856, TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1857.

ESTABLISHED 1829.



BELFAST:

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1857.

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GOVERNORS

OF

The Belfast District Hospital for the Insane,

APPOINTED BY

THE LORD LIEUTENANT AND PRIVY COUNCIL OF IRELAND,

Under the Provisions of 1 and 2 George IV. Cap. 33.

No.	NAME.	RESIDENCE.	DATE OF APPOINTMENT.
1	Marquis of Donegall,	Ormeau, Belfast; and London, ..	March, 1829.
2	Mayor of Belfast, for the time being	Belfast,	March, 1829.
3	Rev. Thomas Hincks, A.M., ..	Derrykeighan Rectory, Dervock,	March, 1829.
4	Sir Robert Bateson, Bart., D.L., ..	Belvoir Park, Belfast,	June 28, 1829.
5	William M'Cance, Esq., J.P., ..	Suffolk, Belfast,	Jan. 4, 1836.
6	Robt. J. Tennent, Esq., J.P., D.L.,	Belfast,	Jan. 4, 1836.
7	John Sinclair, Esq.,	Belfast,	Oct. 28, 1836.
8	Edward Bruce, Esq., J.P.,	Belfast,	Oct. 28, 1836.
9	Right Rev. Bishop Dewar,	Belfast,	Oct. 28, 1836.
10	Rev. John Edgar, D.D.,	Belfast,	Oct. 28, 1836.
11	Rev. H. Montgomery, LL.D., ..	Dunmurry,	Oct. 28, 1836.
12	Very Rev. Dean Stannus,	Lisburn,	April 4, 1842.
13	Rev. Dr. Cooke, D.D., LL.D., ..	Belfast,	April 4, 1842.
14	R. B. B. Houston, Esq., J.P., D.L.,	Orangefield, Belfast,	April 4, 1842.
15	Rev. J. S. B. Monsell, A.M., ..	Belfast,	July 13, 1842.
16	Conway B. Grimshaw, Esq.,	Belfast,	Oct. 8, 1846.
17	John Clarke, Esq., J.P.,	Belfast,	Sept. 13, 1847.
18	Marquis of Downshire,	Castle, Hillsborough,	Nov. 16, 1847.
19	Robt. Gordon, Esq., J.P., D.L., ..	Florida Manor, Killinchy, ..	Nov. 16, 1847.
20	Robert Batt, Esq., J.P., D.L., ..	Purdysburn, Belfast,	Nov. 16, 1847.
21	Major John S. Crawford, J.P., ..	Crawfordsburn, Holywood, ..	Nov. 16, 1847.
22	Lord Bishop of Down & Connor } & Dromore, for the time being, }	The Palace, Holywood,	April 9, 1850.
23	William Dunville, Esq.,	Richmond Lodge, Belfast, ..	May 22, 1851.
24	Rev. T. F. Miller,	Vicarage, Belfast,	Dec. 8, 1851.
25	Adam J. Macrory, Esq.,	Duncairn, Belfast,	June 15, 1852.
26	Lord Dufferin,	Clandeboyne, Holywood, ..	Dec. 10, 1855.
27	Thomas M'Clure, Esq., J.P.,	Belfast,	Jan. 29, 1856.

*** The two Government Inspectors are also members of the Board.

Resident Physician,

ROBERT STEWART, M.D.

Visiting Physician,

HENRY M'CORMAC, M.D.

Visiting Surgeon, &c., .. .

JAMES MOORE, M.D.

STATED MEETINGS OF GOVERNORS ARE HELD IN THE ASYLUM ON THE

FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, AT ONE O'CLOCK, P.M.



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TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

The Belfast District Hospital for the Insane,

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1857.

Table 1.—General Statement of the Year's Admissions, &c.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In Asylum, on 1st April, 1856,	...	...	...	169	138	307
Admitted since, New Cases,	75	60	135			
Relapses,	3	4	7			
	—	—	—	78	64	142
Total under treatment during the year,			...	247	202	449
Discharged, Recovered,	27	39	66			
Do., Relieved,...	9	6	15			
Died,	23	15	38			
	—	—	—	59	60	119
Leaving in the House, 31st March, 1857,			...	188	142	330
The total Admissions more than last year by			...	13	15	28
Daily Average Number of Patients during the year,			...		...	323.25
Do. for the year ending 31st March, 1856,			...		...	291.96
Average Annual Expense of each Patient this year, } including every charge, ... ..			...		£19 10	7 $\frac{3}{8}$
Do. for the year ending 31st March, 1856,			...		18 5	4 $\frac{1}{3}$
Being an increase of each Patient this year of ...			...		1 5	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total Expenditure for the year ending 31st March, 1857,			£6,314	2	7	
Dangerous Lunatics admitted during the year, viz. :—						
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
From Antrim Gaol, ...	7	7	14			
From County Down Gaol,	21	7	28			
	—	—	—	28	14	42
Produce of Farm and Garden,...		...	...		£392 10	3
Deduct Farm and Garden Expenses, ...		...	...		40 14	1
Net Profit, ... ..	...	...	...	...	£351 16	2

Table II.—Ages of the 142 Patients admitted during the Year.

						Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 20 years,	...	...	...	...	...	4	7	11
" 20 to 30 years,	...	...	...	...	...	24	13	37
" 30 to 40 "	...	...	...	...	...	28	19	47
" 40 to 50 "	...	...	...	...	...	12	14	26
" 50 to 60 "	...	...	...	...	...	9	7	16
" 60 to 70 "	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
" 70 to 80 "	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
TOTALS,	...	...	...	...	...	78	64	142

Table III.—Alleged Causes of Insanity in the 142 Cases admitted during the Year.

						Males.	Females.	Total.
Bodily Ailments,	...	...	...	...	...	11	2	13
Disappointed Love,	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Excessive Study,	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Fear of Want,	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Fright,	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	2
Grief, Disappointment, Anxiety, &c.,	...	...	...	...	...	12	19	31
Intemperance,	...	...	...	...	...	11	2	13
Jealousy,	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Puerperal Condition,	...	...	...	...	...	0	2	2
Religious Excitement,	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Unknown or Hereditary,	...	...	...	...	...	9	11	20
Totally unknown,	...	...	...	...	...	27	24	51
TOTALS,	...	...	...	...	...	78	64	142

Table IV.—Forms of Disease in the 142 Cases admitted during the Year.

						Males.	Females.	Total.
Dementia,	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
Mania,	...	...	...	...	...	55	37	92
Melancholia,	...	...	...	...	...	16	21	37
Monomania,	...	...	...	...	...	5	3	8
TOTALS,	...	...	...	...	...	78	64	142

Table V.—Religion of the 142 Cases admitted during the Year.

						Males.	Females.	Total.
Established Church of England and Ireland,	...	...	...	...	...	13	22	35
Presbyterians and Protestant Dissenters,	...	...	...	...	...	39	25	64
Roman Catholics,	...	...	...	...	...	26	17	43
TOTALS,	...	...	...	...	...	78	64	142

Table VI.—Social Condition of the 142 Cases admitted during the Year.

							Males.	Females.	Total.
Married,	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	25	54
Single,	...	...	...	...	...	...	44	33	77
Widowers and Widows,	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	6	11
							—	—	—
TOTALS,	...	...	...	...	...	...	78	64	142

Table VII.—Occupation of the 142 Cases admitted during the Year.

							Males.	Females.	Total.
Baker,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Carpenter,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Carter,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Clerk,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Coachman,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Dealer,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Dressmaker,	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
Farmers, and Wives and Daughters,	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	5	22
Flowerers and Sewers,	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	9	9
Hacklers,	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	0	3
Housekeeper,	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
House Servants,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	9
Labourers and Labourers' Wives,	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	5	27
Land Steward,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Mechanic,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Millworkers,	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	4	4
Nailer,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Painter,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Paupers,	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	3	3
Pawnbroker,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Pensioners,	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	2
Presbyterian Minister,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Saddler,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Sailors,	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	0	3
Sawyer,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
School Masters and Mistress,	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
Shoemaker,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Shopkeepers,	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	0	4
Staymaker,	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
Stonemason,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Tailor,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Washerwoman,	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
Weavers,	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
Writer,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Without any Occupation,	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	24	24
							—	—	—
TOTALS,	...	...	...	...	...	...	78	64	142

Table VIII.—Degree of Education in the 142 Cases admitted during the Year.

							Males.	Females.	Total.
Well Educated,	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	0	3
Can Read and Write,	...	...	...	...	...	...	53	26	79
Can Read only,	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	32	48
Totally Uneducated,	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	6	12
							—	—	—
TOTALS,	...	...	...	...	...	...	78	64	142

Table IX.—Ages of the 66 Patients discharged Recovered during the Year.

					Males.	Females	Total.
Under 20 Years, ...	...	...	...	...	1	4	5
From 20 to 30 Years, ...	...	...	...	...	4	7	11
“ 30 to 40 “	...	...	...	...	8	17	25
“ 40 to 50 “	...	...	...	...	9	6	15
“ 50 to 60 “	...	...	...	...	5	4	9
“ 60 to 70 “	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
“ 70 to 80 “	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
TOTALS, ...	...	...	...	...	27	39	66

Table X.—Shewing the Period of Time the 66 Patients discharged Recovered were under treatment.

					Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 3 Months, ...	...	...	...	...	6	8	14
From 3 to 6 Months, ...	...	...	...	...	9	16	25
“ 6 to 12 “	...	...	...	...	8	8	16
“ 1 to 2 Years, ...	...	...	...	...	4	2	6
“ 2 to 5 “	...	...	...	...	0	3	3
“ 5 to 10 “	...	...	...	...	0	2	2
TOTALS, ...	...	...	...	...	27	39	66

Table XI.—Shewing the duration of Disease in the 119 Patients discharged Recovered and Relieved, and who Died during the Year.

DURATION OF DISEASE.	RECOVERED AND RELIEVED.			DIED.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 3 Months, ...	2	5	7	3	2	5
From 3 to 6 Months, ...	10	19	29	4	2	6
“ 6 to 12 “	8	10	18	5	1	6
“ 1 to 2 Years,...	10	5	15	4	2	6
“ 2 to 5 “	4	4	8	4	5	9
“ 5 to 10 “	2	2	4	1	2	3
“ 10 to 20 “	0	0	0	1	0	1
“ 20 to 25 “	0	0	0	1	1	2
TOTALS, ...	36	45	81	23	15	38

Table XII.—Ages of the 38 Patients who Died during the Year.

					Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 20 Years, ...	...	...	...	...	2	0	2
From 20 to 30 Years, ...	...	...	...	...	6	1	7
“ 30 to 40 “	...	...	...	...	7	3	10
“ 40 to 50 “	...	...	...	...	2	5	7
“ 50 to 60 “	...	...	...	...	2	4	6
“ 60 to 70 “	...	...	...	...	4	2	6
TOTALS, ...	...	...	...	...	23	15	38

Table XIII.—Employment.

					Males.	Females.	Total.
Assisting Servants,	...	...	...	...	10	12	22
Basket-making,	...	...	...	...	2	0	2
Breaking Freestone, &c.,	...	...	...	...	8	0	8
Cultivating the Ground,	...	...	...	...	80	0	80
Embroidering,	...	...	...	...	0	8	8
Gardening Labour,	...	...	...	...	12	0	12
Knitting,	...	...	...	...	2	14	16
Making and Repairing Clothing, Bedding, &c.,	...	...	...	...	0	14	14
Making and Repairing Shoes,	...	...	...	...	2	0	2
Painting,	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Pumping Water,	...	...	...	...	20	0	20
Quilting,	...	...	...	...	0	6	6
Smith Work,	...	...	...	...	2	0	2
Spinning,	...	...	...	...	0	18	18
Sweeping Yards, Carrying Coals, &c.,	...	...	...	...	20	0	20
Tailoring,	...	...	...	...	4	0	4
Washing in Laundry,	...	...	...	...	0	16	16
Weaving, Winding, and Warping,	...	...	...	...	8	0	8
TOTALS,	...	...	...	...	171	88	259

Table XIV.—Forms of Disease of the Total Number of Patients remaining in the Hospital on 31st March, 1857.

						Males.	Females.	Total.
Dementia,	...	...	...	...	...	10	12	22
Idiotic,	...	...	...	...	...	3	0	3
Mania,	...	...	...	...	...	118	71	189
Do., complicated with Epilepsy,	...	...	...	...	...	13	5	18
Monomania,	...	...	...	...	...	14	22	36
Melancholia,	...	...	...	...	...	30	32	62
TOTALS,	...	...	...	...	...	188	142	330

Table XV.—Shewing the State of the Cases remaining in the Hospital on 31st March, 1857.

						Males.	Females.	Total.
Considered Chronic, or Incurable Cases,	...	...	...	...	...	133	88	221
Probably Curable,	...	...	...	...	...	55	54	109
TOTALS,	...	...	...	...	...	188	142	330

Table XVI.—Shewing the Religious Persuasions of the 330 Patients remaining in the Hospital on 31st March, 1857.

						Males.	Females.	Total.
Covenanters,	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Established Church of England and Ireland,	...	...	...	...	...	50	37	87
Methodists,	...	...	...	...	...	0	3	3
Presbyterians,	...	...	...	...	...	70	50	120
Roman Catholics,	...	...	...	...	...	65	50	115
Unitarians,	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
TOTALS,	...	...	...	...	...	188	142	330

Table XVII.—Obituary for the Year ended 31st March, 1857.

No.	Sex.	Age.	Forms of Disease and supposed Exciting Cause.	Social State.	Occupation.	Period an Inmate.	Cause of Death.
1	F.	48	Dementia—Intemperance.	Single.	Servant.	8½ years.	Diarrhœa.
2	F.	45	Mania—Unknown.	Single.	Servant.	6½ weeks.	Epilepsy.
3	F.	60	Mania—Hereditary.	Single.	Not any.	2 years & 10 months.	General Debility.
4	M.	20	Mania—Hereditary.	Single.	Soldier.	14 months.	Phthisis.
5	M.	52	Mania—Unknown.	Married.	Farmer.	3½ weeks.	General Debility.
6	M.	60	Mania—Unknown.	Married.	Farmer.	3 weeks.	Congestion of the Brain.
7	M.	30	Mania—Unknown.	Single.	Labourer.	7½ weeks.	Dysentery.
8	M.	22	Mania—Sun-stroke.	Single.	Sailor.	14 months.	General Debility.
9	F.	58	Mania—Distress.	Single.	Dealer.	5 yrs. & 10½ months.	Phthisis.
10	M.	35	Mania—Unknown.	Married.	Labourer.	2 months.	Dysentery.
11	F.	48	Mania—Unknown.	Married.	Flowerer.	22 days.	Dysentery.
12	M.	21	Mania—False Accusation.	Single.	Weaver.	5 months.	Maniacal Exhaustion.
13	M.	27	Mania—Unknown.	Married.	Coachman.	2 months.	Maniacal Exhaustion.
14	F.	54	Mania—Unknown.	Married.	Farmer's Wife.	12 days.	Apoplexy.
15	M.	31	Mania—Religious Excitement.	Married.	Presbytrn. Ministr.	16 days.	Maniacal Exhaustion.
16	M.	63	Dementia—Unknown.	Widower.	Labourer.	2 years & 11 months.	Dysentery.

17	M.	55	Dementia—Intemperance.	Single.	Weaver.	21 years & 9 months.	Paralysis.
18	F.	31	Mania—Unknown.	Single.	Flowerer.	11 months.	Rheumatic Disease.
19	F.	53	Mania—Unknown.	Married.	Sweep's Wife.	8½ years.	Dropsy.
20	M.	64	Mania—Want of Occupation.	Married.	Hackler.	3 years & 8½ months.	Diarrhœa.
21	M.	32	Mania—Unknown.	Single.	Sailor.	1 year & 4½ months.	Paralysis.
22	M.	29	Mania—Fall on the Head.	Single.	Tailor.	9 years & 2½ months.	Phthisis.
23	M.	45	Mania—Pecuniary Losses.	Married.	Dealer.	1 year & 4 months.	Paralysis.
24	F.	45	Mania—Adversity.	Married.	Farmer's Wife.	4 months & 2 weeks.	Maniacal Exhaustion.
25	M.	26	Mania—Jealousy.	Single.	Bricklayer.	1 year & 2½ months.	Phthisis.
26	M.	50	Mania—Unknown.	Married.	Farmer.	3 months & 1 week.	Paralysis.
27	M.	33	Mania—Privations.	Widower.	Carman.	6½ months.	General Debility.
28	F.	33	Mania—Unknown.	Widow.	Not any.	3 years & 8 months.	Struma.
29	F.	67	Dementia—Unknown.	Unknown.	Spinner.	21 yrs. 10 mos. 3 wks.	Struma.
30	F.	22	Mania—Fever.	Single.	Not any.	2 months & 6 days.	Paralysis.
31	M.	35	Mania—Intemperance.	Widower.	Labourer.	8½ months.	Paralysis.
32	F.	33	Mania—Hereditary.	Single.	Servant.	2 years & 2½ months.	Struma.
33	M.	17	Mania—Mesmerism.	Single.	Shopman.	3 months.	Epilepsy.
34	M.	23	Mania—Epilepsy.	Single.	Weaver.	4 years & 3½ months.	Epilepsy.
35	M.	40	Dementia—Unknown.	Married.	Farmer.	1 month & 10 days.	Paralysis.
36	F.	53	Mania—Hereditary.	Single.	Not any.	3 months & 3½ weeks.	Maniacal Exhaustion.
37	M.	44	Mania—Wetting after Measles.	Single.	Labourer.	4 months & 3 weeks.	Dysentery.
38	F.	40	Mania—Grief at Death of Children	Married.	Farmer's Wife.	4 months & 16 days.	Dropsy.

“CRIMINAL LUNATICS.”

The establishment is now, happily, free from inmates of the above class, the only remaining case, as referred to in last year's report, having since died ; and thus has terminated the always objectionable association of patients whose insanity was prominently connected with offences of a grave character together with the ordinary inmates, who were entirely exempt from any criminal taint ; an association which was frequently the cause of no small amount of bad feeling and of exciting re- criminations amongst those two classes, who were necessarily brought into daily contact within the walls of the Institution.

“DANGEROUS LUNATICS.”

The admissions, viz., 42, were larger than usual during the past twelve months, of cases previously committed, under magisterial warrant, to gaol, for safety, owing to manifestations of a dangerous tendency in their conduct, and subsequently transmitted here, by authority of the Lord Lieutenant, no delay having occurred in taking them. Of these, fourteen were received from County Antrim Gaol, and twenty-eight from that of the County Down ; the latter always yielding a much greater number than the former, though, in regard to the population of the two Counties, that of Down is less than Antrim by twenty-six thousand and upwards. It is to be apprehended that the insane poor, in not a few cases, are committed to gaol as “dangerous lunatics” without their responsible friends having, in the first instance, made application for their admission into the Asylum in the regular way, finding that mode of procedure an easier method for their disposal than through the ordinary and much more legitimate channel of admission, by the Board of Governors. Besides, another consideration which may have some weight in the gaol transmission plan being preferred by interested parties is this, that there is no obligation imposed upon any one to remove a patient thus brought in when fitted to leave from recovery having taken place, or the patient having become harmless, as is provided for with the inmates in ordinary. A want such as this has often been felt as very embarrassing and inconvenient. And on this subject, also, it may be mentioned, that, when a patient from goal dies, and interment has been effected by the

Institution, relations have subsequently come to visit the deceased, unaware of the work of death, as, their existence or locality being unknown, the fatal termination could not be communicated to them; and thus much distress to surviving friends, and reflections upon the officials of the Institution, frequently result from this state of things.

ORDINARY AND "URGENT" ADMISSIONS.

The cases received into the establishment by application being made to the Board through the printed form of admission being duly complied with amounted, it will be seen, on a reference to "Table I.," to one hundred and forty-two. In this list are embraced those designated "urgent cases," or, in other words, patients who were received without waiting for their admission "form" passing the Board in the first instance, but who were taken under treatment on the perfected printed form being countersigned by three Governors, and recommended by them for *immediate* admission, on a vacancy being available. This is found to be a great boon to those who are burthened with the affliction of, perhaps, a furious maniac in their family; and, though it may sometimes be abused (by exaggerated representations of urgency), yet the relief afforded is so manifest, in the great majority of cases, as to render any irregularity of the kind referred to of little or no consideration whatever. Indeed, so important is time in the treatment of a recent invasion of insanity that, as a general rule, the more expeditiously a patient is placed under proper care and restraint the more satisfactory will be the ultimate results; it being an established fact that, of all other diseases which "flesh is heir to," none is of more importance to receive immediate attention than this, and none more susceptible of removal or amelioration, if speedily and judiciously attended to.

HEALTH.

The patients, generally, during the year, enjoyed excellent health, as usual. There were a few cases of dysentery and diarrhoea, which proved fatal; but intestinal attacks are common sequelæ with the inmates of these Institutions, and, with few exceptions, prove uncontrollable, there being no remaining constitutional powers to resist their rapidly prostrating effects.

MORTALITY.

The deaths which occurred in the year now concluded were double those of 1855-6, having been thirty-eight in all—those of last year being but nineteen. This excess may, in part, be accounted for by a larger number having come under treatment—by several having been received in so completely broken-down a state of health that no other result could have been looked for but a fatal one, five dying in less than a month after admission—by the fact of, each year, a larger number of the older cases succumbing—and, lastly, that the deaths in 1856 were much below the usual average; for it may be observed that a mortality of from 10 to 12 per cent. is the ordinary per centage in establishments set apart for the treatment of insanity: a disease, too, which is admitted to be inimical to longevity—few of its subjects living to a ripe old age. Seven of the deaths arose from bowel affections, as already referred to; seven, also, from paralysis; nine from general debility and exhaustion, from continued mania; four from phthisis; three each from epilepsy and struma; two from dropsical affections; and one each from congestion of the brain, rheumatic disease, and apoplexy. Six of the deceased were between sixty and seventy; six between fifty and sixty; seven forty to fifty; ten thirty to forty; seven twenty to thirty; and two under twenty. The oldest (a female) was sixty-seven, and had been an inmate twenty-two years nearly: the youngest (a male), seventeen, and under treatment but three months.

SUICIDAL AND HOMICIDAL ADMISSIONS DURING THE YEAR.

As usual, a comparatively large number of cases came under treatment during the past year, having either the suicidal or homicidal propensity, or both together, largely developed, and causing much anxiety in their superintendence afterwards, on becoming inmates. No casualty or accident, however, happily, occurred in regard to those patients throughout the year now terminated.

The suicidally disposed amounted to thirty-three (fourteen males and nineteen females). The actual attempts at suicide before admission of the above number were ten (six males, four females), and by the following means, viz.:—

Cutting the throat, six (males).

Submersion, two (females).

Precipitation from a window, one (female).

Strangulation, one (female).

Those who only *threatened* self destruction were twenty-two (seven males, fifteen females).

The homicidal propensity was manifested in twenty-eight (eighteen males, ten females, viz.) :—

Homicidally disposed towards father, two (males).

Do.	do.	mother, four (three males, one female).
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Do.	do.	wife, three.
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Do.	do.	husband, two.
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Do.	do.	children, one (female).
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Do.	do.	sister, three (two males, one female).
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Do.	do.	others generally, thirteen (eight males, five females).
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NEW BUILDINGS.

The new additions to the establishment have been in full operation since the last annual report was drawn up, being then only partially so ; Still they are not, to the present time entirely completed, tradesmen having been engaged in the house throughout the year, and likely to be so for some months yet to come, thus most seriously interfering with the discipline and domestic economy of the establishment, it being completely impossible to have such an Institution kept in that order and strict attention to regularity that are so essential to be constantly observed in its movements, so long as irresponsible parties must necessarily be permitted to have free ingress and egress throughout its several departments, thus readily affording too plausible an excuse to the Domestics for *laches* in the performance of their routine duties.

PERIODICALS FOR THE PATIENTS.

In addition to other light reading already provided for the patients, the following periodicals are now also supplied to them, viz. :—“Titan,” “Household Words,” “National Magazine,” “Illustrated News,” “London Journal,” “Illustrated Times,” “Punch,” “Morning News,” &c. The above afford a pleasing

and entertaining variety of the current events, &c., of the day, and give them much pleasure and amusement. But there is no reading which more arrests their attention, or is more popular amongst them, than newspapers; the diversified contents of which those who are readers amongst them will peruse with the greatest interest, all other publications holding but the second place in their estimation compared with the public Press.

ALTERATIONS IN THE WINDOW SASHES AND WATER-CLOSETS.

The cause, at present, of workmen being still on the premises arises from those remodellings in the window-sashes and water-closets in the new buildings which were mentioned as requisite in last year's report. Since then, the Lords of the Treasury have sanctioned their re-construction, by making a grant for that purpose—but not to be charged against the district—and from the opportunity which has been afforded of testing the working of the new self-acting closets, there is every reason to hope that they will be entirely free from the intolerable nuisance which those supplied originally by the Board of Works caused, throughout the length and breadth of the establishment. Only models of the new window-sashes to replace the existing ones have, as yet, been put up; but, from the trial which has been given to them, they appear well calculated to answer every purpose of complete ventilation, together with the important desideratum of a capability of being readily cleaned.

PRESENT STATE OF ACCOMMODATION.

The increased accommodation afforded by the new wings has been not much more than sufficient to give admission to the demands for the same throughout the past year. The House is nearly filled at present—indeed, there is a larger number on the books, perhaps, than strictly ought to be the case, according to the allotted space which it is considered should be devoted to each patient, for the due preservation of health, and a sufficient supply of fresh air in their several dormitories, day-rooms, &c.

SUPPLY OF WATER.

The new well, together with the old one, has been affording a most ample supply of excellent water, throughout the entire building, during the year, which is a matter of the greatest

importance to the general health, comfort, and cleanliness of an Institution for the Insane, above all others, and of which there should, at all times, be not only enough, but an abundance. The requisite supply continues to be afforded by a force-pump, worked by the patients, but which is only a temporary arrangement, as the Governors, after a full consideration of this method of employment, as brought under their notice by the medical officers, and the uncertainty, besides, of a regular and constant supply being thus always at command, have determined either to erect a small steam engine to raise it—or, what would be unquestionably still better in such an establishment, to supply the House with water by gravitation, obtained from the reservoirs of the Spring Water Commissioners. Were this latter plan adopted, which it is confidently hoped may yet be the case, the expense of the new well would by no means have been a useless one, but, on the contrary, very advantageous to have on the premises, for various useful purposes for which it could be made available.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

No changes of any kind have occurred on the Board since last year. The stated monthly meetings were always well attended, as usual, throughout the year, the average number present at each being six, three constituting a quorum. One special meeting was held, in the course of the year, at which nine Governors were present. The Resident and the Visiting Physicians always attend the meetings of the Board, to advise with it in regard to the health, &c., of the patients, and make such suggestions as may appear called for, in connexion with the general good working and benefit of the establishment.

OFFICIAL VISITATION BY THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTORS OF ASYLUMS.

Three official visits to the establishment were made during the year, from the Inspectors' Department, Dublin Castle, by Dr. Nugent—those visits having been always made without any previous notice, and the whole state of the Institution minutely examined into on each occasion. On one of these inspections, Dr. Nugent afterwards took his seat at the Board.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS RELATING TO LUNATIC ASYLUMS
IN IRELAND.

Consequent upon the Judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench, pronounced in Hilary Term, 1856, in regard to the illegality of the appointment of Chaplains to the District Asylums, a Bill was prepared and brought in, by Mr. Secretary Horsman, M.P., and the Attorney-General for Ireland, during the Parliamentary Session of 1856 (15th April), to explain and amend the Acts respecting these Institutions; which, however, was withdrawn, and subsequently replaced by "Bill No. 2" (23d May, 1856), with the same object in view; the provisions of both of which will be found in Appendix No. 1, as also the proceedings of the Board in connexion therewith, and the result thereof. This Appendix also contains a copy of an Act passed last Session, founded on a Bill brought in by Sir Robert Ferguson, Bart, M.P., on the Government's withdrawal of their "Bill No. 2," for enabling superannuation pensions being conferred upon the officials of Lunatic Asylums in Ireland, but on a much less liberal scale than the Government Bill had provided for.

INSPECTION OF THE HOUSE BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF LUNATIC
ASYLUMS (IRELAND) INQUIRY.

On the 10th of November last, all the Commissioners appointed by the Queen's Royal Warrant, of the 8th of October, 1856—viz., Sir Thomas N. Redington, K.C.B., Chairman; Dr. Wilkes, M.D. (Commissioner in Lunacy, England), Mr. Lutwidge, Barrister-at-Law (Commissioner in Lunacy, England), Dr. Corrigan, M.D., and Dr. Andrews, Q.C.—visited the House, spending from 9-30 A.M. until 3-30 P.M. in its inspection. No notice whatever having been previously received of their intended official visit, the Board, of course, had no opportunity of meeting them. Both before and since their inspection, several most voluminous and intricate returns have been called for by, and transmitted to, the Commissioners, which required a vast amount of time and labour in their preparation—especially so from their periods not corresponding with those officially required to be in use in the Asylum—namely, from the 1st of April to the 31st March—but from the 1st of Jan. to the 31st Dec.; thus necessitating entirely new calculations, &c., to be gone through,

the great labour of which it is almost impossible to conceive. A correspondence which occurred between the Commissioners and the Board, in regard to the objects of their inquiry, will be found in Appendix No. 1.

CONCLUSION.

To the Board of Governors, the Resident Physician begs, in conclusion, to offer his best thanks for their important counsel and ready co-operation in the discharge of the always arduous duties of such an establishment as this; and the same to his brother officials, for their able assistance at all times. He must not omit to state that the attendants and servants generally of the Institution have afforded every satisfaction in fulfilling their respective trusts during the past year.

ROBERT STEWART, M.D.,

— RESIDENT PHYSICIAN.

BELFAST DISTRICT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE,
31st March, 1857.

APPENDIX, No. I.

*Special Meeting of the Board of Governors, held in the Asylum, on
Saturday, 26th April, 1856.*

Present:—Sir Robert Bateson, Bart., D.L., in the Chair; John Sinclaire, Esq., John Clarke, Esq., J.P., the Mayor of Belfast (S. G. Getty, Esq.), Rev. H. Cooke, D.D., LL.D., A. J. Macrory, Esq., Rev. H. Montgomery, LL.D., C. B. Grimshaw, Esq., Robert James Tennent, Esq., J.P., D.L. The two Physicians also present.

The meeting was specially summoned to consider the provisions of the following Bill, brought in by Mr. Horsman and Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland, “to amend the Acts relating to the Lunatic Asylums in Ireland,” which was read, first, on the 15th instant, and ordered to be read, second, on the 21st inst., but was subsequently deferred until Monday, the 5th of May next, viz.:—

(Ireland.) (15th April, 1856. 19th Vict.)

A BILL TO EXPLAIN AND AMEND THE ACTS RELATING TO LUNATIC ASYLUMS IN IRELAND.

PREAMBLE, after reciting former Acts:—

And, whereas, since the passing of the said first-recited Act, the successive Lords Lieutenant of Ireland have appointed the officers of the said Asylums; but doubts have arisen respecting the authority to make such appointments, which it is expedient to remove: Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

I. All Appointments of officers for Asylums for the Lunatic Poor in Ireland, and all salaries for such officers fixed or granted, and all matters and things heretofore done by the Lord Lieutenant, or by the Lord Lieutenant and Council of Ireland, with respect to such appointments, shall be and remain good and valid, and be effectual for all purposes whatever.

II. The Lord Lieutenant and Council shall, in the case of every Asylum for the Lunatic Poor established, or to be hereafter established in Ireland, fix and determine the number and description of officers for every such Asylum, the duties of such officers, and the salaries (if any) to be paid to them respectively; and the Lord Lieutenant shall appoint such officers, and may remove any such officer, and shall have power, upon every vacancy by death, removal, resignation, or otherwise, in any such office, from time to time, to appoint some other person to such office, subject to the conditions and restrictions affecting the original appointment to such office.

III. In citing this Act, for any purpose whatever, it shall be sufficient to use the expression “Lunatic Asylums, Ireland, Act, 1856.”

IV. In the interpretation of this Act, save where there is anything in the subject or context repugnant to such construction, the words “Lord Lieutenant” shall include any other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland; the words

"Lord Lieutenant and Council" shall mean the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland, by and with the advice of her Majesty's Privy Council in Ireland; and the word "Officer" shall mean and include Governors, Managers, Chaplains, Physicians, Surgeons, Apothecaries, Keepers, and other Officers.

After serious deliberation of the above Bill, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

"Resolved, I.—That we have read, with extreme astonishment, "A Bill to explain and amend the Acts relating to Lunatic Asylums in Ireland, prepared and brought in by Mr. Horsman and Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland, and ordered, by the House of Commons, to be printed, 15th April, 1856."

"Resolved, II.—That, in our opinion, the introduction of said Bill had been caused by a recent unanimous decision of the Irish Court of Queen's Bench, which annulled, as being illegal, the appointment of three Chaplains to this Asylum, by the Lord Lieutenant, on his own sole authority—such decision having been obtained by our resistance as a Board of Governors, aided by the unanimous and four-times-repeated support of the Grand Juries of Down, Antrim, and Carrickfergus, on the ground of the injurious tendency of such appointments, amongst the insane, taken from a population peculiarly divided on subjects of religious and political controversy.

"Resolved, III.—That said Bill is evidently based upon a very singular mistake, in regard to well-known facts, inasmuch as the Preamble affirms, after reciting many Acts of Parliament, that, 'since the passing of the said first-recited Act, the successive Lords Lieutenant of Ireland have appointed the officers of said Asylums,' whereas, in reality, the only officers, at any time, appointed to this Asylum by the Lords Lieutenant have been the Governors, Manager, Matron, and Visiting Physician; all other appointments, such as House-Surgeon, Apothecary, Clerk, Storekeeper, Superintendents of Wards, Keepers, Nurses, Gardeners, &c., having been uniformly made directly by the Board of Governors, or, under their sanction, by the Manager and Matron—said Governors, Manager, and Matron being the natural and proper judges of the qualifications of such subordinate officers, and most deeply interested in their efficiency and good conduct.

"Resolved, IV.—That the first clause of said Bill, which proposes 'to make good, valid, and effectual, for all purposes whatever, all appointments, salaries, matters, and things heretofore done by the Lord Lieutenant, or by the Lord Lieutenant in Council,' is highly objectionable, inasmuch as, if passed into an Act, it would not merely overrule the existing law, as settled by the deliberate decision of the highest Court of Judicature in this country, but it would, by an *ex-post-facto* operation, press injuriously, and, in our opinion, also, most unjustly, upon the ratepayers of this district.

"Resolved, V.—That the 2d clause of said Bill, which proposes to confer 'upon the Lord Lieutenant and Council' the power, in every Asylum for the Lunatic Poor in Ireland, of fixing and determining the number and description of officers, their duties, and salaries; and, likewise, the sole power 'of appointing and removing all such officers,' is, in our opinion, decidedly objectionable in itself, unconstitutional in principle, and evidently calculated, if carried into effect, completely to derange and paralyze the operations of every pauper Asylum in Ireland. We view it as highly objectionable and unconstitutional, because it would confer 'upon the Lord Lieutenant and Council' the unprecedented power of making appointments, unlimited as to number, and the still more alarming authority to impose unlimited taxation, without either representation or the privilege of appeal, upon every County in Ireland; and that, too, for objects which the taxpayers, owing to their local knowledge, might consider not only unprofitable, but injurious.

"That the 2d clause, if carried into effect, would derange and paralyze the operations of every Pauper Asylum in Ireland, the following considerations will abundantly prove:—

"1st. The number of officers, of all grades, in the fifteen Pauper Asylums of Ireland, cannot, exclusive of the Governors, be less than five hundred and seventy; and, consequently, it would involve a ludicrous absurdity to suppose that 'the Lord Lieutenant and Council' could possess any adequate knowledge of the characters and qualifications of such a number of persons, so widely scattered. In either the appointment or dismissal of such officers, therefore, the Executive Government, must, necessarily, be guided by the representations of the Inspectors;

so that, practically, the entire patronage and control of fifteen great charitable Institutions, liberally supported by the several Counties of Ireland, at a cost, probably, exceeding £150,000 a-year, would be vested in the hands of two medical gentlemen, themselves possessing no adequate local knowledge—and that, too, to the entire exclusion of the whole Nobility, Gentry, Clergy, and respectable trading classes of Ireland, from all share in the management of the establishments which they support, and of the insane poor, in whose well-being they have a deep and natural interest.

“The provisions of this clause would virtually place all Governors, Physicians, Managers, Matrons, Surgeons, Clerks, and other officers, in the degrading position of mere dependants upon the simple will or caprice of the Inspectors: that is to say, that the foremost men in Ireland, in point of station, professional attainments, and moral worth, might be summarily dismissed and humiliated, even without cause assigned, through two persons possessing comparatively no local knowledge, having no special interest in the well-being of the insane poor, in no-wise responsible for their acts, even to public opinion; and, above all, liable to be misled by party and sectarian influences.

“3d.—The further effect of the second clause would be, to deprive all Resident Physicians and Matrons, not merely of the salutary and necessary power of appointing those subordinate officers for whose conduct they are responsible, and of whose qualifications they would be the most competent judges, but likewise of all power to replace persons resigning their situations, or to remove incompetent, disobedient, cruel, or profligate domestics; so that not only the harmony and good order, but even the very working, of the Asylums might be destroyed.

“Resolved, VI.—That, without dwelling upon the special disregard of the conscientious opinions of this Board of Governors, and of three influential Grand Juries, evinced by the provisions of the said Bill, we feel bound, most strenuously to protest against the offensive and injudicious centralization which it would establish; and, also, on our own behalf, and on that of all the other Boards of Governors in Ireland, loudly to remonstrate against the humiliating, unequal, and invidious position in which this Bill proposes to place the gentlemen of Ireland; whilst, in the County Asylums of England, the Governors enjoy the proper privilege of appointing, directing, and removing all the officers of those public establishments.

“Resolved, VII.—That, whilst we have deemed it our imperative duty thus distinctly and strongly to express our sentiments, upon a question of vast social importance, we are, nevertheless, constrained, by our sincere respect for the Executive Government of Ireland, to hope that the Bill of which we complain was hastily framed, and introduced to Parliament without due estimate of its bearings. Entertaining this hope, and trusting, consequently, that a respectful explanation and remonstrance may induce the Government to withdraw a measure so objectionable, and so strongly disapproved, we hereby appoint the Marquis of Downshire, the Marquis of Donegall, Lord Dufferin, the Mayor of Belfast, the Very Rev. Dean Stannus, the Rev. Dr. Cooke, the Rev. Dr. Montgomery, Mr. R. J. Tennent, Mr. Dunville, and Mr. Macrory, to proceed to London, without delay, to solicit an interview with the Chief Secretary of Ireland, or, if need be, with the Prime Minister.

“Resolved, VIII.—That, should the respectful remonstrance of our Deputation fail of success, a Petition, founded upon these resolutions, and signed by our Chairman, Sir Robert Bateson, Bart., shall be presented to Parliament.

“Resolved, finally.—That our Deputation are hereby authorised, in our name, and on our behalf, to adopt any other measures which they may consider best calculated to accomplish the object of their mission.

“(Signed)

“ROBERT BATESON, Chairman.”

Board of Governors, held in the Asylum, on Monday, May 5th, 1856.

Present :—Richard B. Blakiston Houston, Esq., J.P., D.L., in the Chair; John Sinclaire, Esq., John Clarke, Esq., J.P., Wm. Dunville, Esq., the Very Rev. the Dean of Ross; C. B. Grimshaw, Esq., Thomas M'Clure, Esq., J.P. The Resident and Visiting Physicians also present.

Mr. Dunville reported that the Deputation appointed on the 26th ult. had had an interview with Mr. Horsman and the Attorney-General for Ireland, at the Irish Office, on the 2d instant, the Deputation being accompanied by a large number of influential Members of both Houses of Parliament—not less than twenty-four—amongst whom were Lords Dufferin, Dungannon, Bernard, and Claude Hamilton; Sir Robt. Ferguson, Bart., M.P., Mr. Richardson, M.P., Mr. Whiteside, M.P., Mr. Macartney, M.P., Mr. Kirk, M.P., Mr. Davison, M.P., Mr. Grogan, M.P., &c., and also by Mr. William Sharman Crawford and Mr. Barnett. That, after a lengthened and patient discussion of the new Bill, Mr. Horsman, who received and listened to the statements and views of the Deputation with the greatest courtesy and attention, promised to give the best consideration to the suggestions which had been made, and communicate immediately with the Lord Lieutenant on the subject, hoping to have his answer by the 5th instant (to-day), when the Deputation were invited again to confer with him (Mr. Horsman); and, after some further conversation, the interview ended and the parties retired.

Read printed copy of resolutions, transmitted to the Board as adopted by a special meeting, held in Belfast, on the 28th ultimo (April), William Sharman Crawford, Esq., J.P., D.L., in the Chair, of the Committees appointed, at the last Spring Assizes, by the respective Grand Juries of the Counties of Antrim, Down, and the County of the Town of Carrickfergus, for the purpose of co-operating with the Governors of this Asylum in such proceedings as might be necessary, in the event of any measure being introduced into Parliament which would tend to impair the powers of the Governors in the appointment of Chaplains, as established by the late judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench; the same objecting to the provisions of the "Lunatic Asylums (Ireland) Bill," now before the House of Commons, and unanimously approving of the resolutions adopted by the Governors against the above Bill; together with appointing W. Sharman Crawford, Thomas Greg, Thomas Verner, and James Barnett, Esqrs., "as a Deputation from the several Grand Juries of the district to co-operate with the

Deputation of Governors, in their efforts to procure the withdrawal of the said Bill; and, if necessary, to take such measures as they may deem most useful, in inducing the Legislature to reject this most unconstitutional and injurious measure."

Board of Governors, held in the Asylum, on Monday, June 2, 1856.

Present:—The Very Rev. the Dean of Ross, in the Chair; John Sinclair, Esq., Rev. H. Montgomery, LL.D., John Clarke, Esq., J.P. The two Physicians also present.

Dr. Montgomery reported that the Deputation of Governors had had a second interview with Mr. Secretary Horsman, at the Irish Office, on the 5th ultimo, accompanied by Mr. Wm. Sharman Crawford, Mr. Kirk, M.P., and Mr. Richardson, M.P., when the provisions of the Lunatic Asylums Bill were again re-discussed, and the Deputation submitted to Mr. Horsman the outlines of a new one, which they believed the public would deem satisfactory—although they, themselves, felt that, for the sake of conciliation, their proposed measure yielded some points of absolute right. That Mr. Horsman received the Deputation very courteously, as in the first instance, and promised to submit their further views to the Lord Lieutenant; at the same time expressing a desire to frame a measure which might be satisfactory to all parties.

The above report having been made, and the Lunatic Asylums Bill of 15th April having been withdrawn, a copy, as annexed, of the "Lunatic Asylums Bill, No. 2," ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, on the 23d ult., was now read, as follows, viz.:—

(No. 2.)

(23d May, 1856. 19th Vict.)

**A BILL TO EXPLAIN AND AMEND THE ACTS RELATING TO
LUNATIC ASYLUMS IN IRELAND.**

PREAMBLE, after reciting former Acts, viz.:—

And whereas, since the passing of the first-recited Act, the successive Lords Lieutenant of Ireland have appointed officers of the said Asylums; but doubts have arisen as to the authority to make such appointments, and it is expedient to remove such doubts, and to explain and amend the said Acts: Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

I. In citing this Act for any purpose whatever, it shall be sufficient to use the expression, "The Lunatic Asylums, Ireland, Act, 1856."

II. Interpretation Clause (same as in Bill No. 1., Clause IV).

III. All appointments of officers for such Asylums, and all salaries of such officers fixed or granted, and all matters and things heretofore done by the Lord

Lieutenant, or by the Lord Lieutenant and Council, with respect to such appointments, shall be and remain good, valid, and effectual, but subject to the powers and provisions hereinafter contained.

IV. The Lord Lieutenant and Council shall, from time to time, in the case of every such Asylum established, or to be hereafter established, fix and determine the number and description of officers for every such Asylum.

V. The Governors of such Asylums shall, from time to time, subject to the approbation of the Lord Lieutenant in Council, fix the salaries to be paid to such officers respectively; but, if the Governors shall neglect so to do, or if the Lord Lieutenant in Council shall disapprove of the salary proposed for any officer, it shall be lawful for the Lord Lieutenant in Council to fix and determine the same.

VI. It shall be lawful for the Governors, with the approval of the Lord Lieutenant in Council, from time to time to alter the salaries to be paid to such officers respectively.

VII. The Manager, Matron, and Visiting Physician of every such Asylum shall be, from time to time, appointed by the Lord Lieutenant, and, whether now holding office or hereafter to be appointed, shall be removable at the pleasure of the Lord Lieutenant.

VIII. All officers of every such Asylum, other than the Manager, Matron, and Visiting Physician, shall be, from time to time, appointed by the Governors, and, whether now holding office or hereafter to be appointed, shall be removable at the pleasure of the Governors.

IX. It shall be lawful for the Governors, on the recommendation of the Inspectors of Lunatics, or one of them, to direct that any officer who is incapable, from age, infirmity of mind or body, or otherwise, to discharge the duties of his office, shall be superannuated, and shall receive such yearly superannuation pension as, upon consideration of all the circumstances of each case, shall appear to be just, not exceeding such proportion of his salary and allowances as hereinafter mentioned: that is to say—for above fifteen and less than twenty years' service, a pension not exceeding two thirds of his salary and allowances; and, for above twenty years' service, a pension not exceeding his salary and allowances.

X. The several salaries and superannuation pensions now or hereafter to become payable shall respectively be advanced, paid, presented for, and raised, in like manner as any other moneys advanced or raised for supporting and maintaining such Asylums respectively under the said recited Acts, or any of them.

XI. Whereas pauper lunatics only can now, by law, be admitted into any such District Lunatic Asylums, and there are others of the industrious classes suffering from insanity who may be benefited by treatment in Lunatic Asylums, but whose relatives are unable to meet the expense of private Asylums, and are not willing to accept gratuitous relief, and it is expedient that some provision should be made for such classes: Be it therefore enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Governors of any District Lunatic Asylum (subject to any orders to be made by the Lord Lieutenant in Council) to receive as inmates any persons not coming under the description of pauper lunatics (but to be treated in all respects as if pauper lunatics, clothing only excepted), on such terms, as to payment or otherwise, as to the Governors shall seem proper; and the moneys so received as payment for such persons shall be applied to the support and maintenance of such Asylums.

XII. It shall be lawful for the Lord Lieutenant in Council, from time to time, to make any general or special orders regulating the admission of such lunatics not coming under the description of paupers, or prohibiting the admission of such persons.

XIII. This Act and the said recited Acts shall be construed together, as if one Act.

The Board having duly considered the above Bill, the Governors expressed their satisfaction that some of the most objectionable provisions of the former Bill had been modified, or entirely removed, whilst two valuable clauses had been added, in relation to the superannuation of officers, and the admission of patients not coming *strictly* under the designation of *pauper lunatics*.

At the same time, the Board, though sincerely sorry that, in any way, they should be placed in a position of antagonism to the views of the Executive Government of Ireland, were, nevertheless, compelled, by a deep sense of public duty and responsibility, to declare, that the present Bill is, in their opinion, obscure in some portions of its phraseology, contradictory in certain of its clauses, and objectionable in a few of its provisions.

Their objections, on these grounds, the Board desire to place, distinctly and respectfully, before the Chief Secretary for Ireland, in the earnest hope that he may concur in their views, so as to secure the passing of an Act of Parliament satisfactory to the public, and calculated to promote the harmonious working and still further efficiency of Irish Asylums.

The Board, therefore, respectfully suggest—

I.—That, in the 19th line of the Preamble, the word “certain” should be inserted between the words “appointed” and “officers”—inasmuch as, in relation to the principle officers, no *doubt* had ever existed concerning the validity of their appointments.

II.—That, in Clause III., page 2, line 21, for the words, “shall be and *remain* good, valid, and effectual,” the following shall be substituted, viz.:—“Shall be taken to have been good, valid, and effectual, but subject to the provisions hereinafter contained.”

III.—That, as Clause IV., in its present form, would place in the hands of the Lord Lieutenant and Council an unlimited and irresponsible power of “fixing and determining” the appointment of new, and, it might be, unnecessary and injurious officials, this Board earnestly request that the Clause should be amended, as follows, viz.:—“The Lord Lieutenant and Council, in concurrence with the Board of Governors, shall, from time to time, in the case of every such Asylum established, or hereafter to be established, fix and determine the number and description of Officers for every such Asylum.”

IV.—That, in Clause V., page 2, line 32, instead of the words, “disapprove of the salary proposed for any Officer,” the following words shall be substituted, viz.:—“Shall not consider the salary proposed for any Officer to be fair and reasonable, it shall be lawful,” &c., &c.

Resolved—That copies of the foregoing minute be transmitted to Mr. Horsman; also to Mr. Davison, M.P., Mr. Kirk, M.P., and those other Members of Parliament who had accompanied the Deputation of Governors to the Irish Office.

Read printed copy of resolutions transmitted by the Magistrates and cess-payers of the County of Down, as unanimously adopted by them at the Special Road Sessions for the County at large, held on the 26th ultimo (May), Hugh Montgomery, Esq., J.P., in the Chair, against the provisions of the “Lunatic Asylums (Ireland) Bill,” now before Parliament; and especially objecting to that portion thereof giving authority to the Lord Lieutenant “to appoint Chaplains to every Lunatic Asylum, unless called for by a resolution of the Governors, on due notice given.”

Board of Governors, held in the Asylum, on Monday, July 7, 1856.

Present:—John Clarke, Esq., J.P., in the Chair; John Sinclair, Esq., Rev. Dr. Montgomery, C. B. Grimshaw, Esq., Adam J. Macrory, Esq. The two Physicians also present.

Dr. Montgomery reported that, since last meeting of the Board, he had been again in London, and had another interview with Mr. Horsman, on the subject of the provisions of “No. 2 Lunatic Asylums Bill,” which had lately been under discussion in the House, and undergone certain amendments adverse to the Government, when, after some conversation in connexion therewith, Dr. Montgomery was requested to write to Mr. Horsman, in the name of the Board, and inform him that the Governors would be quite satisfied with the Bill, if amended as they had suggested last month, and with leaving the appointment of the Resident Physician, the Visiting Physician, and that of the Matron, in the hands of the Lord Lieutenant, as hitherto: and, also, their desire that the late Chaplains should be paid their salaries up to the time of the pronouncing of the judgment of the Court of Queen’s Bench.

Board of Governors, held in the Asylum, on Monday, Aug. 4, 1856.

Present:—Rev. Dr. Montgomery, in the Chair; John Sinclair, Esq., C. B. Grimshaw, Esq., William M’Cance, Esq., J.P. The Visiting Physician also present.

The Chairman reported that, as the "Lunatic Asylums (Ireland) Bill, No. 2" was withdrawn by Mr. Horsman immediately after last meeting, he considered it unnecessary to write to that gentleman with respect to it, as had been directed by the Governors.

Anno Decimo Nono & Vicesimo, Victoriae Reginae, Cap. XCIX.

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ACTS RELATING TO LUNATIC ASYLUMS IN IRELAND, SO FAR AS RELATES TO SUPERANNUATIONS.

(29th July, 1856.)

PREAMBLE, reciting former Acts.

I. In citing this Act, for any purpose whatever, it shall be sufficient to use the expression "The Lunatic Asylums Superannuations (Ireland) Act, 1856."

II. In the interpretation of this Act, save where there is anything in the subject or context repugnant to such construction, the word "Asylums" shall mean "Asylums for the Lunatic Poor," established under the said recited Acts; and the word "Officer" shall mean and include Managers, Chaplains, Physicians, Surgeons, Apothecaries, Matrons, Attendants, and Servants.

III. It shall be lawful for the Governors of Asylums, with the approval of the Inspectors of Lunatics, or one of them, to direct that any officer who is incapable, from age, infirmity of mind or body, or otherwise, to discharge the duties of his office, shall be superannuated, and shall receive such yearly superannuation pension as, upon consideration of all the circumstances of each case, shall appear to be just, not exceeding the proportions, with reference to the amount of the salary of such officer and the period of his service, which, by an Act passed in the fourth and fifth years of the reign of his Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled "An Act to alter, amend, and consolidate the Laws for regulating the Pensions, Compensations, and Allowances to be made to persons in respect of their having held civil offices in his Majesty's service,"* or by any Act amending the same, are directed to be observed.

IV. The several superannuation pensions hereafter to become payable shall respectively be advanced, paid, presented for, and raised in like manner as any other monies advanced or raised for supporting and maintaining such Asylums respectively under the said recited Acts, or any of them.

V. This Act and the said recited Acts shall be construed together, as if one Act.

Board of Governors, held in the Asylum, on Monday, Sept. 1, 1856.

Present:—Rev. Dr. Montgomery, in the Chair; John Clarke, Esq., J.P., William Dunville, Esq., A. J. Macrory, Esq., Thos. M'Clure, Esq., J.P. The Resident Physician also present.

* The following are the rates of superannuation allowed by IV. and V. Gul. IV. c. 24, the Act as above referred to, viz.:—

To an officer, clerk, or person who shall have served ten years and upwards, and under seventeen years, any annual allowance not exceeding in amount three-twelfths of the salary and emoluments of his office.

For seventeen years service and upwards, and under twenty-four years, not exceeding four-twelfths of such salary and emoluments.

For twenty-four years' service and upwards, and under thirty-one years, not exceeding five-twelfths of such salary and emoluments.

For thirty-one years and upwards, and under thirty-eight years, not exceeding six-twelfths of such salary and emoluments.

For thirty-eight years and upwards, and under forty-five years, not exceeding seven-twelfths of such salary and emoluments.

And for forty-five years and upwards, not exceeding eight-twelfths of such salary and emoluments.

And in no case, except as hereinafter is especially provided, shall any superannuation or allowance exceeding two-thirds of the salary and emoluments of any such officer, clerk, or person be granted.

The Board finding that Mr. Horsman, on the withdrawal of "No. 2 Lunatic Asylums (Ireland) Bill," had announced that it was the intention of Government to appoint a Commission to inquire into the state and management of the Insane, and of the Asylums generally in Ireland, and it appearing that, since last meeting, certain Commissioners had been stated in the newspapers to have been appointed, it was thereupon unanimously

Resolved—That the following be a Committee to take such immediate steps as they may deem best in connexion with the above Commission, in regard to the interests of this Asylum, and to report to next meeting, viz.:—The Very Rev. the Dean of Ross, Rev. Dr. Cooke, Richard B. Blakiston Houston, Esq., J.P., D.L., John Clarke, Esq., J.P., Rev. Dr. Montgomery, William Dunville, Esq., and Adam J. Macrory, Esq.

Board of Governors, held in the Asylum, on Monday, Oct. 6, 1856.

Present:—Rev. Dr. Montgomery, in the Chair; John Clarke, Esq., J.P., C. B. Grimshaw, Esq., R. B. Blakiston Houston, Esq., J.P., D.L., John Sinclaire, Esq., W. Dunville, Esq., Adam J. Macrory, Esq., Thomas M'Clure, Esq., J.P. Dr. Nugent (Inspector) and the two Physicians also present.

The Committee appointed with reference to the Lunatic Asylums Commission Inquiry now reported that, immediately after last meeting, a letter had been written by their Chairman, the Rev. Dr. Cooke, to Mr. Secretary Horsman, M.P., requesting that he would inform them as to the nature of the inquiry to be instituted by the Commissioners, and if opportunity would be given to all parties interested to put their opinions upon record; and what, if any, preparations would be necessary in order to facilitate the intended inquiry, but that no reply had been received, to the present time, from Mr. Horsman; and, thereupon, the Committee were authorised to take such further proceedings in connexion with this matter as might appear best, and to report to next meeting.

Board of Governors, held in the Asylum, on Monday, Nov. 3, 1856.

Present:—Rt. Rev. Dr. Denvir, in the Chair; C. B. Grimshaw, Esq., John Clarke, Esq., J.P., Rev. Dr. Edgar, John

Sinclair, Esq., Rev. Dr. Montgomery, William Dunville, Esq., Adam J. Macrory, Esq. The two Physicians also present.

Read the following letter from Mr. Barry :—

" Office of the Lunatic Asylum Commission (Ireland),

" 1, Palace-street, Dublin, Oct. 18th, 1856.

"SIR,—I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you, to be laid before the Board of Governors of the Belfast Asylum, for their information, the enclosed copy of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Lunatic Asylums in Ireland.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

" M. W. BARRY, Secretary.

" Superintendent, Belfast Asylum."

"VICTORIA, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen Defender of the Faith, to our trusty and well-beloved Sir Thomas Nicholas Redington, Knight Commander of our most honourable Order of the Bath, Robert Andrews, Esquire, one of our Counsel learned in the Law, Robert Wilfred Skeffington Lutwidge, Esquire, Barrister-at-Law, James Wilkes, Esquire, and Dominick John Corrigan, Esquire, Doctor of Medicine, greeting,

"Whereas, we have thought it expedient, for divers good causes and considerations, us thereunto moving, that a diligent and full inquiry should forthwith be made into the state of the Lunatic Asylums and other Institutions for the custody and treatment of the Insane now existing in that part of our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland called Ireland, and also into the present state of the law respecting Lunatics and Lunatic Asylums in that part of our said United Kingdom.

"Now, know ye that we, reposing great trust in your fidelity, discretion, and integrity, have authorised and appointed, and by these presents do authorise and appoint you, the said Sir Thomas Nicholas Redington, Robert Andrews, Robert Wilfred Skeffington Lutwidge, James Wilkes, and Dominick John Corrigan, to be our Commissioners for the purpose of inquiry into the state of the Lunatic Asylums, and other Institutions for the custody and treatment of the Insane, now existing in that part of our said United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland called Ireland, and also into the present state of the law respecting Lunatics and Lunatic Asylums in that part of our said United Kingdom, and for the better discovery of the truth in the premises, We do, by these presents, give and grant to you, or any two or more of you, full power and authority to call before you, or any two or more of you, such persons as you shall judge necessary, by whom you may be the better informed of the truth in the premises; and We do further, by these presents, give and grant to you, or any two or more of you, full power and authority to inquire into the premises, and every part thereof, by all lawful ways and means, whatsoever; and we do hereby give and grant unto you, or any two or more of you, full power and authority, when the same shall appear to be requisite, to administer an oath or oaths, to any person or persons whatsoever, to be examined before you, or any two or more of you, touching or concerning the premises; and we do also give and grant to you, our said Commissioners, or any two or more of you, full power and authority to cause all persons to bring and produce before you, or any two or more of you, all and singular, books, records, papers, and other writings touching the premises, which shall be in the custody of them, or any of them; and our further will and pleasure is, that you, or any two or more of you, upon due examination of the premises, do and shall report to us, on or before the first day of May next, under your hands and seals, respectively, what you shall find touching or concerning the premises, upon such inquiry as aforesaid; and We do further will and command, and by these presents ordain, that this our Commission shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you our Commissioners, or any two or more of you, shall and may, from time to time, proceed in the execution thereof, and of every matter and thing therein contained, although the same be not continued from time to time by adjournment; and we do hereby command all and singular our Justices of the Peace, Sheriffs, Magistrates, Ministers, Constables, Officers, and all other our loving subjects, whatsoever, as well within liberties as without, that they be assistant to you and each of you in the execution of these presents. And, for your further assistance in the execution of this our Commission, we hereby nominate and appoint our trusty and well-beloved Michael Joseph Barry, Esquire, Barrister-at-Law, to be Secretary to this our

Commission, and to attend you our said Commissioners, whose services and assistance we require you to use, from time to time, as occasion shall require, in witness whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent. Witness ourself, at Westminster, the Eighth day of October, in the twentieth year of our reign.

“By Warrant, under the Queen’s sign manual,

“C. ROMILLY.”

The Committee appointed with reference to the above Commission reported that, immediately upon the receipt of Mr. Barry’s letter and enclosure of the Royal Warrant, as above given, the following copy of a communication was adopted, and transmitted to the Commissioners, which was now read, and approved, viz.:—

“*District Asylum, Belfast,*
“*October 23d, 1856.*”

“SIR,—I HAVE been directed to inform you, that the Committee of Governors, appointed at the last monthly meeting to take charge of the interests of this Asylum, in relation to the proceedings of the “Lunatic Asylums Commission (Ireland),” recently nominated by her Majesty, met this day, by special summons, to receive your communication dated 18th instant, as Secretary to the above-named Commission, enclosing a copy of the Royal Commission, which having been read, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted, viz:—

‘I. That we feel obliged by the early communication made to us by the Commissioners; and, although entirely unaware of anything in our own establishment which would render the contemplated investigation necessary, we shall, nevertheless, when required, cheerfully do all in our power to facilitate the inquiries of the Commissioners.

‘II. That, as the Commissioners appear to possess the most extensive powers, we can have, at present, no knowledge of the subjects to which they may deem it proper to direct their attention; and, consequently, we venture respectfully to request an early and distinct intimation of the chief objects to which their inquiry may be directed, so as at once to save their own time and enable us to make due preparation.

‘III. We respectfully suggest that, in order to render the labours of the Commissioners, full, searching, and satisfactory, their inquiries should be conducted under two great divisions, viz., one *central* and the other *local*.

‘The central investigation should, in our estimation, be held in Dublin, where parties, nominated by each Asylum, may attend—where evidence and statements shall be made in open Court—where the cross-examination of witnesses may be carried out by authorised representatives of the several Asylums, and where, through a searching public inquiry, all important suggestions and information may be brought to bear upon the subject.

‘The local investigation should, in our opinion, be held in each Asylum, the same principles of conducting the inquiry, as above set forth, being fully recognised.’

We have thus ventured to indicate a course which, if adopted, would, in our judgment, be calculated to prove highly beneficial in relation to the general interests of Irish Lunatic Asylums; and conclude by stating our firm conviction, that any investigation conducted on principles less comprehensive will be unsatisfactory to the public, who take a lively interest in the well-being of these establishments.

“I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

“ROBERT STEWART, M.D., Resident Physician.

“To M. J. Barry, Esq.,

“Secretary, Lunatic Asylums Commission, 1, Palace-St., Dublin.”

Read the following reply to the above letter, received from the Commissioners on the 23th ultimo (October), viz.:—

*"Office of Lunatic Asylums Commission (Ireland),
"1, Palace-Street, Dublin, Oct. 27, 1856.*

"SIR,—I am directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d instant, and to state that the Commissioners feel much obliged to the Board of Governors of the Belfast District Asylum for the desire they have expressed to facilitate the investigation with which the Commissioners are charged.

"The points which that Inquiry embraces are—

'1. The state of the law as regards Lunatic Asylums in Ireland.

'2. The state of all Institutions for the custody and treatment of the Insane in this country.

'3. The state of the law as regards Lunatics generally.'

"Upon each of these subjects, the Commissioners will be happy to receive any information which the Board of Governors may desire to communicate to them; and they will make arrangements for receiving evidence at Belfast on a future day, of which due notice will be given.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"M. J. BARRY, Secretary.

"To Robert Stewart, Esq., M.D., Resident Physician,
Belfast District Lunatic Asylum."

The Board referred the above letter to the Committee already appointed, to reply to, and to report upon, to a future meeting.

Board of Governors, held in the Asylum, on Monday, Dec. 1, 1856.

Present:—William M'Cance, Esq., J.P., in the Chair; Rev. Dr. Edgar, John Clarke, Esq., J.P., Rev. Dr. Cooke, C. B. Grimshaw, Esq., Rev. Dr. Montgomery, Wm. Dunville, Esq. The two Physicians also present.

Reported that the Commissioners of Asylums Inquiry had paid a visit of inspection to the Institution, without giving any previous notice, on Monday, the 10th ultimo (November), at 9-30 A.M.

Read the following letter from the Commissioners, which was received at the Asylum the evening of the day of their visit, viz.:—

*"Office of Lunatic Asylums Commission (Ireland),
"6, Ely-Place, Dublin. (Not dated.)*

"SIR,—I AM directed by the Commissioners acting under authority of the Royal Commission, of which you have already received a copy, to request that you will inform the Governors of the Belfast District Asylum, that the Commissioners have visited it, for the purpose of inspection, and that they will be happy to consider any statements or suggestions, in reference to the Institution or the general subjects of their Inquiry, which the Governors, or any of them, may desire to submit; or, if necessary, to make arrangements for receiving such evidence as the Governors may propose to offer.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"M. J. BARRY, Secretary.

"To the Manager of the Belfast District Asylum."

Read also the following letter, viz.:—

*"Office of Lunatic Asylums (Ireland) Commission,
"6, Ely-Place, Dublin, Nov. 24, 1856.*

"SIR,—I am directed by the Commissioners to request that you will furnish them with the following particulars relative to the Asylum under your care, with as little delay as possible, viz.:—

'1. A return of the daily arrangements of the Asylum; shewing the hours of rising, retirement to rest, meals, exercise, and recreation of the patients.

'2. Copies of the dietaries, ordinary, sick and extra; and of the formulas for dietaries in use in the Asylum.

'3. Return of the arrangements for religious worship and instruction, and of the average number of patients, of each persuasion, attending Divine worship on Sundays."

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"M. J. BARRY, Secretary.

"To the Manager of the Belfast District Lunatic Asylum."

The above letters having been considered, were referred to the Committee appointed on the 1st September, who were now instructed to reply to both, and to report to next meeting.

Board of Governors, held in the Asylum, on Monday, Jan. 3, 1857.

Present:—Richard B. Blakiston, Houston, Esq., J.P., D.L., in the Chair; John Sinclaire, Esq., John Clarke, Esq., J.P., Conway Blizard Grimshaw, Esq., Adam J. Macrory, Esq., Thomas M'Clure, Esq., J.P. The two Physicians also present.

The Committee appointed to reply to the letters before the Board last month, from the "Lunatic Asylums (Ireland) Commission of Inquiry," laid the following copy of a communication before the Board, which had been transmitted to the Commissioners, in answer to the same, which was now read and approved:—

*"District Lunatic Asylum, Belfast,
"13th December, 1856.*

"SIR,—I have been directed by the Board of Governors to transmit the following reply to the several queries contained in your letter of the 24th ultimo, viz.:—

"I." "The healthy patients rise in Summer before 6 A.M., and in Winter, between 6 and 7. The great majority retire to rest in Summer about 8 P.M., and in Winter, about 7: those desiring to remain up later having the option of doing so. Breakfast is at 9 A.M.; Dinner, 2 P.M.; and Supper, 7 in Summer and 6 in Winter. The male inmates who are able and willing, are variously employed (weather permitting) about the grounds, and thus obtain exercise during the day. When the weather permits, those of them not able for much exertion are taken out to walk on the grounds in the morning, after breakfast, and in the afternoon, after dinner, for an hour each time. In the intervals, they have free access to their respective airing courts. The recreation of the inmates is partly as above; and, during the Winter season, they amuse themselves with dancing and music in the day-rooms. Any inclined so to occupy themselves, are supplied with light reading, newspapers, and periodicals. At Hallowe'en, they have a special entertainment, with refreshments.

"From the appointment of the present Resident Physician, it was the custom to give another stated entertainment, annually, at which several of the Governors, and other respectable inhabitants, ladies and gentlemen, of Belfast, were present; but, in deference to the remonstrance of the late Rt. Rev. Dr. Mant, Bishop of Down, the custom was discontinued.

"II." "The dietary in ordinary, and formulas for ditto, are as follow:—(For dietary in ordinary see Appendix No. 2.)

"Sick and extra diet varies according to circumstances, and as the medical officers may direct in special cases.

"It comprises the following medical and other comforts, viz.:—Tea, Coffee, Eggs, Meats, Soups, Rice, Sago, Arrow Root, Milk, Wine, Porter, Ale, and Spirits.

"III." "The arrangements sanctioned by the Board on the subject of religious worship are as follow, viz.:—

(COPY OF MINUTE OF BOARD.)

*'Board-room, Belfast Asylum,
'March 3d, 1834.*

'Present:—Rt. Rev. Bishop of Down and Connor, in the Chair; Rev. A. C. Macartney, Vicar of Belfast, Rev. Thomas Hincks, Curate of Belfast, Joseph Stevenson, Esq., Marquis of Downshire, John M'Cance, Esq.

'Ordered—That, on a wish being expressed by a patient to be visited by a Minister of religion, the Manager of the Asylum, if he is of opinion that such visits are not likely to produce any injurious excitement in the patient, but are likely to be beneficial to him, be authorised to request the attendance of a Clergyman of the Established Church, whether the Parochial Clergyman, or, with his permission, the Clergyman of the Parish to which the patient belonged before his admittance, if he should give a preference to such other Minister—subject, however, to the same local limitation as in the case of the Clergyman of the Established Church.

'That, in any case of application being made to the Manager for the attendance of a Minister of religion, the Manager to report the application, and its results, at the next monthly meeting of the Governors. And that no nurse, or other person, connected or unconnected with the Asylum, be suffered to introduce any Minister of religion to a patient, without the knowledge and permission of the Manager.'

'In addition to the above, it is to be stated that, on Sundays, about five patients, on an average, attend their respective houses of public worship in Belfast, in charge of the attendants of the Institution.

'I have further to observe that, having submitted to the Board of Governors your letter of the 24th ultimo, I am directed to state that the foregoing methods of religious instruction adopted by them have been in conformity with the 'General Rules and Regulations' promulgated and sanctioned by 'Order in Council,' in 1843, so far as internal Clerical visitation was concerned: that the occasional permission for some patients, under proper surveillance, to go out to their places of worship was, on my suggestion, approved, and that the reports of the Inspectors bear evidence to the success of these methods, as tested by the number of recoveries in this Asylum when compared with those of similar Institutions. I am instructed to add, that the Board continue to deprecate any change of a system of religious instruction not merely founded on opinion and theory, but, through a series of years, confirmed by its practical results; and that they continue especially to stand opposed to the appointment of a numerous staff of denominational Chaplains, for the purpose of regular and systematic theological teaching; which method, from the terms of 'Query III.,' and from other circumstances, the Board apprehend the Commissioners might be predisposed to favour.

'The Board are, accordingly, desirous that, by some of their members, and other competent individuals, they may have an opportunity of appearing before the Commissioners in presence of the parties who, on the subject of the religious instruction of the insane, hold opinions opposite to those now stated to the Commissioners, and formerly to the Government; so that, by direct and cross-examination, the views of all parties may be fully presented to Parliament. I am also to state, that the Board are most anxious that this examination should be held in presence of the Inspectors of Asylums; and that, in reference to your letter of 27th October last, they will be happy to avail themselves of the privilege of offering certain suggestions coming within the scope of the Commission of Inquiry.'

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"(Signed)

"ROBT. STEWART, M.D., Resident Physician.

"To M. J. Barry, Esq.,

"Secretary, Lunatic Asylums Commission,
6, Ely-Place, Dublin."

Read a letter from Lunatic Asylums Commissioners, dated 20th ult. (Dec.), with forms of returns as follows, to be filled up and transmitted with the least possible delay after the date to which the information applied for was required, viz., the 1st January, 1857, and reported that the returns were in course of preparation, but being voluminous and complicated, they would occupy many days of unremitting labour to complete, viz. :—

"1. Total numbers in House, on 1st January, 1857, classified as to probability of recovery, forms of disease; number of Epileptics, "Dangerous Lunatics," Suicidal Cases, Idiots, Dirty Cases; number received from the gaols of the district, and distribution by Counties.

"2. Return for five years (1852 to 1856), of numbers in House, daily average, admissions, discharges (recovered and not recovered), and number of deaths each month.

"3. Assigned causes of death for five years (1852 to 1856).

"4. Accommodation—Present number of beds; distribution in single rooms, dormitories, and infirmaries.

"5. Expenditure for one year, ending 31st December, 1856.

"6. List of Governors; names, date of appointment, residence. Number of meetings held same period. Number of days of meeting on which there was no quorum.

"7. Land—Quantity in buildings, under spade culture, otherwise cultivated, and remainder.

"8. Establishment charges, salaries, names of officers, &c.; date of appointment, office; resident or non-resident; allowances, including clothing and rations.

"9. Return shewing consumption of bread and provisions generally, with coals and turf, for one year, to 25th December, 1856.

"10. Copies of any special bye-laws or regulations for the government of the Asylum."

Board of Governors, held in the Asylum, on Monday, Feb. 2, 1857.

Present:—Rev. Dr. Cooke, in the Chair; Rev. Dr. Montgomery, John Clarke, Esq., J.P., C. B. Grimshaw, Esq., John Sinclair, Esq., William Dunville, Esq. The two Physicians also present.

Reported that no answer had been received from the Commissioners to the communication transmitted to them, of the date of 13th Dec., 1856; and, thereupon, it was directed that the Resident Physician address a letter to them, requesting to know at what time it was probable they would hold a public Court of Inquiry in Belfast, in like manner as it appeared they had already done in Dublin, for that district.

Read a letter, dated 5th ultimo (January), from the office of the "Lunatic Asylums (Ireland) Commission," requiring further returns—viz., copies of "the daily state" of the Asylum, for the 31st March, 30th June, 30th September, and 31st

December, 1856 ; and reported that the same had been duly transmitted.

Board of Governors, held in the Asylum, on Monday, March 30, 1857.

Present:—Adam J. Macrory, Esq., in the Chair ; John Sinclaire, Esq., John Clarke, Esq., J.P. The two Physicians also present.

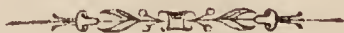
Reported that no reply had been received from the office of the “Lunatic Asylums (Ireland) Commission” to the Board’s letter of the 2d ultimo (February), in regard to the period of their holding a Court of Inquiry for the Belfast district.

Read a letter from the above office, dated 3d instant (March), requiring the following additional returns to be transmitted to the Commissioners, viz.:—

I. A statement of the several books, registers, and accounts kept in the Asylum, together with copies of the forms of the same.

II. Forms of application and admission of pauper lunatics, and of pay patients (if any) received into the Asylum.

Reported that the same had been duly forwarded.



APPENDIX, No. II.

GENERAL TABLES OF STATISTICS, &c.

Table XVIII.—Shewing the Admissions, Discharges, &c., from each County in the District, during the Year ending 31st March, 1857.

ADMITTED FROM EACH COUNTY.

						Ma'es.	Females.	Total.
Antrim,	...	...	...	...	...	38	35	73
County of the Town of Carrickfergus,	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Down,	...	...	...	...	...	40	29	69
						—	—	—
TOTALS,	...	...	...	...	...	78	64	142

DISCHARGED, &c., TO EACH COUNTY.

Antrim,	...	...	...	...	...	26	33	59
County of the Town of Carrickfergus,	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Down,	...	...	...	...	...	32	27	59
						—	—	—
TOTALS,	...	...	...	...	...	59	60	119

REMAINING IN ASYLUM, 31st MARCH, 1857.

Antrim,	...	...	...	...	...	96	76	172
County of the Town of Carrickfergus,	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	7
Down,	...	...	...	...	...	89	62	151
						—	—	—
TOTALS,	...	...	...	...	...	188	142	330

Table XIX.—Shewing the Per Centage of Discharges and Deaths, and the Average Per Centage, calculated on the Average Number of Patients, for Thirteen Years, ending 31st March, 1857.

Years, ending 31st March.	Yearly Average Number.	RECOVERED.		RELIEVED.		DIED.	
		No. of Cases.	Rate Per Cent.	No. of Cases.	Rate Per Cent.	No. of Cases.	Rate Per Cent.
1845	258.83	68	26.36	21	8.14	40	15.50
1846	252.18	61	24.19	14	5.55	24	9.51
1847	254.96	60	23.58	22	8.62	27	10.58
1848	262.56	81	30.85	15	5.71	47	17.90
1849	271.32	69	25.43	14	5.16	30	11.05
1850	267.51	50	18.68	22	8.22	43	16.07
1851	271.12	81	29.87	29	10.69	29	10.69
1852	275.71	62	22.48	24	8.70	27	9.79
1853	280.01	67	23.92	21	7.49	25	8.92
1854	279.11	47	16.83	20	7.16	19	6.80
1855	266.48	36	13.50	21	7.88	39	14.63
1856	291.96	50	17.12	14	4.79	19	6.50
1857	323.25	66	20.41	15	4.64	39	11.75

Table XX.—Ages of the 330 Patients remaining in the Hospital on 31st March, 1857.

					Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 20 Years, ...	...	...	...	...	6	4	10
From 20 to 30 Years,	...	...	...	...	40	28	68
“ 30 to 40 “	...	...	...	...	55	35	90
“ 40 to 50 “	...	...	...	...	35	36	71
“ 50 to 60 “	...	...	...	...	36	26	62
“ 60 to 70 “	...	...	...	...	13	11	24
“ 70 to 80 “	...	..	...	...	3	2	5
TOTALS,	...	...	...	...	188	142	330

Table XXI.—Shewing the duration of Residence in the Hospital, of the 330 Patients remaining under Treatment, 31st March, 1857.

					Males.	Females.	Total.
From 1 to 2 Months,	...	...	...	...	8	8	16
“ 2 to 3 “	...	...	...	...	7	3	10
“ 3 to 6 “	...	...	...	...	12	6	18
“ 6 to 9 “	...	...	...	..	6	11	17
“ 9 Months to 1 Year,	...	...	...	...	9	4	13
“ 1 Year to 18 Months,	...	...	...	...	18	14	32
“ 18 Months to 2 Years,	...	...	...	...	11	4	15
“ 2 Years to 4 “	...	...	...	...	14	19	33
“ 4 “ to 6 “	...	...	...	...	16	15	31
“ 6 “ to 10 “	...	...	...	...	27	25	52
“ 10 “ to 15 “	...	...	...	...	18	14	32
“ 15 “ to 20 “	...	...	...	...	20	11	31
“ 20 “ to 25 “	...	...	...	...	22	8	30
TOTALS,	...	...	...	...	188	142	330

Table XXII. — Shewing the Articles Manufactured and made by the Patients during the Year.

800 Hanks Linen Yarn.	105 Socks Footed.
150 Hanks Thread.	195 Shifts.
652 Yards Plain Linen.	282 Aprons.
Yards Striped Linen.	51 Petticoats.
Yards Twilled Calico.	51 Wrappers.
Yards Ticken.	86 Day Caps.
Yards Gingham.	36 Handkerchiefs.
Yards Diaper.	155 Bolsters.
Yards Twilled Linen.	71 Bed Ticks.
Yards Chequer.	50 Gowns.
407 Pairs Stockings and Socks.	17 Quilts.
Pairs Leather Shoes Soled and Heeled.	266 Pillow Slips.
70 Pairs List Shoes Soled and Heeled.	18 Rollers.
212 Pairs Sheets:	40 Bed Gowns.
2 Jackets.	98 Neck Ties.
63 Men's Coats.	4 Table Cloths.
70 Pairs Trousers.	44 Quilted Blankets.
25 Vests.	4 Night Caps.
215 Shirts.	Pillow.
	3 Overalls.
	4 Towels.

Table XXIII.—Shewing the Number of Cases Admitted, Recovered, Relieved, and who Died in each Quarter and each Month, respectively, during the Year ended 31st March, 1857.

	ADMITTED.			DISCHARGED.						DIED.		
				RECOVERED.			RELIEVED.					
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
April,	6	6	12	3	5	8	0	0	0	0	1	1
May,	9	3	12	2	6	8	1	0	1	2	2	4
June,	9	8	17	0	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	4
			—41			—17			—3			— 9
July,	8	11	19	3	1	4	4	1	5	4	2	6
August,	5	7	12	6	3	9	0	0	0	3	2	5
September,	3	4	7	1	6	7	0	1	1	2	0	2
			—38			—26			—6			—13
October,	6	4	10	2	4	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
November,	11	6	17	1	3	4	0	1	1	2	1	3
December,	5	2	7	2	3	5	0	0	0	2	0	2
			—34			—15			—1			— 5
January,	5	4	9	0	2	2	1	0	1	1	4	5
February,	5	3	8	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	0	2
March,	6	6	12	6	4	10	1	1	2	2	2	4
			—29			—14			—5			—11
	78	64	142	27	39	66	9	6	15	23	15	38



**AN ACCOUNT OF THE RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE BELFAST DISTRICT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, FOR ONE YEAR,
BEING FROM 1ST APRIL, 1856, TO 31ST MARCH, 1857.**

THE CHARGE.		THE DISCHARGE.	
Balance of last Account, in favour of the public,	£430 19 4	Paid for Provisions,	£2,834 17 0
Received from the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury,	6,588 8 2	Do. Clothing,	572 4 4
Received for Vegetables and Fruit sold,	£37 8 3	Do. Bedding,	152 15 2
Do. Oats and Wheat sold,	90 2 1	Do. Furniture,	76 16 4
Do. Potatoes sold,	12 6 7	Do. Fuel and Light,	321 5 5
Do. Bones and Rags sold,	11 8 11	Do. Soap, Candles, &c.,	95 18 7
Do. Fines on Servants,	0 3 6	Do. Stationery and Printing,	44 9 11
Do. Hay sold,	35 0 0	Do. Advertising,	3 4 4
Do. Grazing,	5 10 0	Do. Medicine, including Wine, &c.,	43 6 11
Do. Old Metal,	2 17 10	Do. Repairs and Alterations,	1,102 16 9
Do. Wages charged by mistake,	0 10 0	Do. Farm and Garden Expenses,	40 14 1
	£195 7 2	Do. Insurance,	25 15 0
		Do. Incidental Expenses,	70 2 1
		Do. Salaries and Wages,	923 15 0
		Do. Postage,	6 1 8
			6,314 2 7
Balance in favour of the public,	£7,214 14 8	To Balance due the Public,	900 12 1
	£900 12 1		£7,214 14 8

AN ACCOUNT OF THE EXPENDITURE AND PRODUCE OF THE LAND OF THE BELFAST DISTRICT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, FOR ONE YEAR, BEING FROM 1ST APRIL, 1856, TO 31ST MARCH, 1857.

Dr.		EXPENDITURE.		PRODUCE.		Cr.
To Seed Potatoes,	£16 0 0	By 240 cwt. Potatoes, used in the Establishment, { valued at 3s. 6d. per cwt., ..	£42 0 0	
" Seeds and Plants,	11 15 0	" 235 cwt. do., sold at various prices, ..	12 6 7	
" Spades, Hooks, Shovels, &c.,	4 16 1		<u>£54 6 7</u>	
" Seed Wheat,	1 14 0	" 90 cwt. Oats, used in the Establishment, at { 7s. 10d. per cwt., ..	31 6 8	
" Shoeing Market Horse,	2 2 0	" 60 cwt. do., sold at prices from 7s. 10d. to { 8s. 3d. per cwt., ..	23 14 10	
" Rent Charge,	1 9 10		<u>55 1 6</u>	
" Barrow Wheels, Brush, Comb, and Sponge,	1 18 2	" 102 cwt. Wheat, sold at 12s. to 14s. 6d. per cwt.,	66 7 3	
" Saddlery Work and Harness Blacking,	0 19 0	" 480 cwt. Straw, used in the Establishment, at { 1s. 10d. per cwt. ..	44 0 0	
" Balance,	<u>£40 14 1</u>	" 200 cwt. Hay, used in the Establishment, at { 3s. 4d. per cwt., ..	33 6 8	
			351 16 2	" 28 Cocks of Hay, sold at ..	35 0 0	
				" Vegetables and Fruit sold, ..	<u>68 6 8</u>	
				" Do. used in the Establishment, ..	37 8 3	
					40 0 0	
				" Manure, valued at ..	<u>77 8 3</u>	
				" Osiers made into Baskets, ..	20 0 0	
				" Grazing outside the Wall, ..	1 10 0	
					5 10 0	
				Total, ..	<u>£392 10 3</u>	
				" Balance, ..	£351 16 2	
Total,	£392 10 3			

D I E T A R Y

OF

The Belfast District Hospital for the Insane.

B R E A K F A S T .

One quart stirabout (made with 8oz. fine or 7oz. coarse meal) and three-fourths of a pint mixed milk, ...	Males	} Every Morning.
One-and-half pint stirabout and one half-pint mixed milk,	Females	

D I N N E R .

One-half pound loaf bread (or 3lbs. potatoes), six ounces solid meat, and one pint soup,	Males & Females	} 3 days a-week.
One-half pound loaf bread (or 3lbs. potatoes) and one quart soup (made with ox heads and bones cut out of meat, vegetables, oatmeal, barley, pease, &c.),...	Males	
One-half pound loaf bread (or 3lbs. potatoes) and one-and-half pint soup,	Females	} 3 days a-week.
Three-fourths of a pound loaf bread (or 3½ lbs. potatoes) and one pint mixed milk,	Males	
One-half pound loaf bread (or 3lbs. potatoes) and one pint mixed milk,	Females	} 1 day a-week.

S U P P E R .

One-half pound loaf bread and three-fourths of a pint of mixed milk,	Males	} Summer 6 months.
One-half pound loaf bread and one-half pint mixed milk,	Females	
One quart stirabout and three-fourths of a pint new milk,	Males	} Winter 6 months.
One-and-half pint stirabout and one-half pint new milk,	Females	

*** Patients who are actively employed are allowed a portion of meat, in addition to the soup, five instead of three days in the week. When the state of the patient's health requires it, the diet is changed accordingly, and any other substituted that may be considered requisite by the Medical Officers.

LIST

OF

Annual Reports of Hospitals for the Insane,

RECEIVED FROM APRIL 1, 1856, TO MARCH 31, 1857.

Irish Reports.

1. *Armagh District Hospital for the Insane*, thirtieth annual report, to 1st April, 1856, pp. 8,—Thomas Jackson, Manager.
2. *Carlow District Hospital for the Insane*, twenty-third annual report, to 31st March, 1856, pp. 18,—Matthew E. White, A.M., M.D., J.P., Resident Physician-Superintendent.
3. *Clonmel District Hospital for the Insane*, annual report, to 31st March, 1856, pp. 24,—James Flynn, M.D., Resident Physician Superintendent.
4. *Londonderry District Hospital for the Insane*, annual report, to 31st March, 1856, pp. 13,—David Cluff, Manager.
5. *Maryboro' District Hospital for the Insane*, twenty-third annual report, to 31st March, 1856, sheet,—Thomas C. Burton, M.D., Resident Physician-Superintendent.
6. *Omagh District Hospital for the Insane*, third annual report, to 31st March, 1856, pp. 22,—Francis John West, M.D., Resident Physician-Superintendent.
7. *Sligo District Hospital for the Insane*, first annual report, to 31st March, 1856, pp. 38,—John M'Munn, M.D., Resident Physician-Superintendent.
8. *Waterford District Hospital for the Insane*, half-yearly reports, to 30th November, 1855, and 3d May, 1856, sheet,—John Dobbs, Manager.

English Reports.

9. *Atrophy of the Brain*, by Robert Boyd, M.D., Physician-Superintendent of the Somerset County Hospital for the Insane, pp. 12.
10. *Bedford County Hospital for the Insane*, report for 1856, pp. 58,—William Denne, M.R.C.S., Eng., Surgeon-Superintendent.
11. *Belgian Hospitals for the Insane*, Notes on, by John Webster, M.D., pp. 68.
12. *Bethlehem Royal Hospital for the Insane*, general annual report, to 31st December, 1855, pp. 88,—W. Charles Hood, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
13. *Birmingham Borough Hospital for the Insane*, annual report for 1856, pp. 39,—T. Green, M.R.C.S., Eng., Surgeon-Superintendent.
14. *Cheshire County Hospital for the Insane*, annual report for 1855, pp. 27,—T. N. Brushfield, M.R.C.S., Eng., Surgeon-Superintendent.
15. *Devon County Hospital for the Insane (Exminster)*, eleventh annual report, for 1856, pp. 22,—John Charles Bucknill, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
16. *Dorset County Hospital for the Insane (Forston)*, annual report, for 1855, pp. 38, J. Gustavus Symes, M.R.C.S., Eng., Surgeon-Superintendent.
17. *Essex County Hospital for the Insane (Brentwood)*, annual report, for 1855, pp. 40,—D. C. Campbell, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
18. *Gloucester Hospital for the Insane*, annual report, for 1855, pp. 33,—W. W. Williams, M.D., F.L.S., Physician-Superintendent.
19. *Hants County Hospital for the Insane (Knowle, near Fareham)*, annual report, for 1855, pp. 38., and for 1856, pp. 41,—John Manley, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
20. *Kent County Hospital for the Insane (Barming-Heath, Maidstone)*, annual report, to 4th July, 1856, pp. 37,—James E. Huxley, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
21. *Do.*, Report of Committee of Visitors, for 1856, pp. 31.

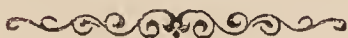
22. *Lincoln Hospital for the Insane*, State of the, for 1855, pp. 28,—F. D. Walsh, M.R.C.S., Eng., Surgeon-Superintendent.
23. *Lincolnshire County Hospital for the Insane (Bracebridge)*, third annual report, for 1855, pp. 38,—Edward Palmer, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
24. *Manchester Royal Hospital for the Insane*, fourth annual report, to June, 1856, pp. 27,—Thomas Dickson, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
25. *Metropolitan Commissioners in Lunacy*, tenth report, to 31st March, 1856, pp. 40.
26. *Middlesex County Hospital for the Insane (Colney Hatch)*, fifth annual report, for 1855, pp. 180,—D. F. Tyerman, M.R.C.S., Eng., and W. G. Marshall, M.R.C.S., Eng., Surgeon-Superintendents.
27. *Monmouth, Hereford, &c., Joint Hospital for the Insane*, third annual report, for 1856, pp. 35,—J. S. Allen, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
28. *Nottingham General Hospital for the Insane*, forty-fifth annual report, for 1855, pp. 42,—W. P. Stiff, M.B., Resident Physician-Superintendent.
29. *Oxford and Berks Co. Hospital for the Insane (at Littlemore)*, annual report, for 1855, pp. 37,—William Ley, M.R.C.S., Eng., Surgeon-Superintendent.
30. *Pathology of the Brain*, Contributions to, by Robert Boyd, M.D., Physician-Superintendent of the Somerset County Hospital for the Insane, pp. 32.
31. *Salop and Montgomery Hospital for the Insane (Bicton, Shrewsbury)*, eleventh annual report for 1855, pp. 35,—Richard Oliver, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
32. *Staffordshire County Hospital for the Insane*, thirty-eighth annual report, for 1856, pp. 32,—Mark Noble Bower, M.D., Resident Physician-Superintendent.
33. *Suffolk County Hospital for the Insane (Melton, Woodbridge)*, nineteenth annual report, for 1855, pp. 26,—J. Kirkman, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
34. *Surrey County Hospital for the Insane (Springfield, Wandsworth)*, annual report, for 1855, pp. 71,—Charles Snape, M.R.C.S., Eng., and H. W. Diamond, M.D., Medical-Superintendents.
35. *Surrey County Hospital for the Insane*, Letter to the Committee of Visitors of the, by Charles Snape, M.R.C.S., Eng., Medical Superintendent, Male Department.
36. *Warneford Hospital for the Insane (Oxford)*, Address to the Trustees and Governors of the; by William Ley, M.R.C.S., Eng., Surgeon-Superintendent of the Oxford and Berks Co. Hospital for the Insane, Littlemore.
37. *Warwick County Hospital for the Insane (Hatton, Warwick)*, report for 1855, pp. 24,—W. H. Parsey, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
38. *Wills County Hospital for the Insane (Devizes)*, fifth annual report, for 1855, pp. 45,—John Thurnam, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
39. *Worcester (County and City) Hospital for the Insane*, third annual report, for 1855, pp. 67,—James Sherlock, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
40. *Yorkshire Hospital for the Insane (North and East Ridings)*, ninth annual report, for 1855, pp. 22,—Samuel Hill, M.R.C.S., Surgeon-Superintendent.

Scotch Reports.

41. *Aberdeen Royal Hospital for the Insane*, annual report, to 31st March, 1856,—Robert Jamieson, M.D., Physician Superintendent.
42. *Crichton Royal Institution for the Insane (Dumfries)*, sixteenth annual report, to 11th November, 1855, pp. 42,—W. A. F. Browne, M.D., Resident Physician-Superintendent.
43. *Dundee Royal Hospital for the Insane*, thirty-sixth annual report, to 16th June, 1856, pp. 34,—T. T. Wingett, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
44. *Glasgow Royal Hospital for the Insane*, forty-second annual report, for 1855, pp. 56,—Alexander Mackintosh, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
45. *Montrose Royal Hospital for the Insane*, annual report, to 1st June, 1856, pp. 30, James Gilchrist, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
46. *Perth (James Murray's) Royal Hospital for the Insane*, twenty-ninth annual report, to June, 1856,—L. Lindsay, M.D., Resident Physician-Superintendent.

American Reports.

47. *Butler Hospital for the Insane (Providence)*, annual report, for 1856, pp. 34,—Isaac Ray, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
48. Connecticut General Assembly, report of Insane Fund Commissioners to the State of, for the year ending 31st March, 1855; pp. 6.
49. *Hartford (Conn.) Retreat for the Insane*, thirtieth annual report, for year ending 31st March, 1854, pp. 55; also thirty-first annual report, to 31st March, 1855, pp. 39,—John S. Butler, M.D., Physician Superintendent.
50. *Northampton (Massachus.) Hospital for the Insane*, Address at the laying of Corner Stone of; by Edward Jarvis, M.D.; pp. 39.
51. *Philadelphia Friends' Hospital for the Insane*, thirty-ninth annual report, to 1st March, 1856, pp. 32; also fortieth annual report, to 1st March, 1857, pp. 32,—Jos. H. Worthington, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.



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